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HIGHLY RELIABLE AMORPHOUS HIGH-K GATE OXIDE ZrO2

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the specification as follows.

(Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, 1. comprising:

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table; and

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 3. (Canceled)
- (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the 4. metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, comprising:

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table; and

oxidizing the metal layer using a krypton(Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process to form a metal oxide layer on the body region.

- (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer 10. includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 14. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a transistor, comprising:

forming first and second source/drain regions;

forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions;

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region; and coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer.

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- (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer 15. includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 16. (Canceled)
- (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the 17. metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing 19. at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- 20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.
- (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing 21. using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a memory array, comprising: forming a number of access transistors, comprising:

forming first and second source/drain regions;

forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions; evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

> oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region; coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer;

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forming a number of wordlines coupled to a number of the gates of the number of access transistors;

forming a number of sourcelines coupled to a number of the first source/drain regions of the number of access transistors; and

forming a number of bitlines coupled to a number of the second source/drain regions of the number of access transistors.

- (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer 23. includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 24. (Canceled)
- (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the 25. metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer 26. includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing 28. with atomic oxygen.
- 29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- 30. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an information handling system, comprising: forming a processor; forming a memory array, comprising:

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forming a number of access transistors, comprising:

forming first and second source/drain regions;

forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions; evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal

layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

> oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region; coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer;

forming a number of wordlines coupled to a number of the gates of the number of access transistors:

forming a number of sourcelines coupled to a number of the first source/drain regions of the number of access transistors;

forming a number of bitlines coupled to a number of the second source/drain regions of the number of access transistors; and

forming a system bus that couples the processor to the memory array.

- 31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 32. (Canceled)
- 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.

- (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing 36. with atomic oxygen.
- (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing 37. using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- 38. 50. (Canceled)
- (Currently Amended) A transistor formed by the process, comprising: 51. forming a body region coupled between a first source/drain region and a second source/drain region;

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous single element metal layer on the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region; and coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer.

- 52. (Original) The transistor of claim 51, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 53. (Canceled)
- 54. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, 55. comprising:

electron beam evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially pure zirconium layer on the body region; and

oxidizing the zirconium layer to form a metal oxide layer on the body region.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

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56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein oxidizing the zirconium layer includes oxidizing a zirconium layer to form an oxide with a conduction band offset in a range of approximately 5.16 eV to 7.8 eV.

57. - 61. (Canceled)